

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP03/12629

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
Int.Cl⁷ A61F13/494

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
Int.Cl⁷ A61F13/15-13/84

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched
Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2004
Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2004 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2004

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 2000-93462 A (Shiseido Co., Ltd.), 04 April, 2000 (04.04.00), (Family: none)	1, 2

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search
08 January, 2004 (08.01.04).

Date of mailing of the international search report
27 January, 2004 (27.01.04)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/
Japanese Patent Office

Authorized officer

Facsimile No.

Telephone No.

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

The invention defined by Claim 1 relates to a disposable wearing article having elastic members annexed to "the back of an absorbent body at substantially its middle widthwise position," the invention defined by Claim 8 relates to a disposable wearing article having elastic members annexed to "a cladding sheet with an absorbent body attached to the skin surface side, at substantially its middle widthwise position," and the invention defined by Claim 11 is not characterized by the annexing of elastic members.

Therefore, it is clear that Claims 1, 8, 11 do not comply with the requirement of unity of invention.

(continued to extra sheet)

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.: 1 and 2

Remark on Protest ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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Continuation of Box No. II of continuation of first sheet(1)

Further, Claims 2 through 7 each quote Claim 1. Therefore, the matter common to Claims 2 through 7 is the matter described in Claim 1.

However, disposable wearing articles in which elastic members substantially linearly extending over a predetermined distance are annexed to the back of an absorbent body at a substantially middle widthwise position are disclosed in JP 2000-93462 A (Shiseido Co., Ltd.), 04 April, 2000 (04.04.00). As a result, the matter common to Claims 2 through 7 is no better than the prior art, so that in the sense of the second sentence of PCT Rule 13.2, this common matter is not a special technical feature.

Therefore, it is clear that Claims 2 through 7 do not comply with the requirement of unity of invention.

Claims 1 through 11 are recognized to be classified into eight groups of inventions as follows.

1. Claims 1, 2
2. Claim 3
3. Claim 4
4. Claim 5
5. Claim 6
6. Claim 7
7. Claims 8-10
8. Claim 11